16 May 96

TO: D/DIR

~~e-mail to Bill Crowell~~

Subject: misc CI/Venona

(b)(6)

Bill,

1. [   ]

[   ] I do not know anything about the [   ] nor does Bob Lamphere. Presumably they are among the u/i covernames in Venona.

2. Went to FBI hq on Monday to discuss the October conference. Gave them copies of a number of documents that we want to include in the conference ~~document~~, including the 'Anonymous Letter of 1943', and some good examples of FBI memos to Meredith Gardner in the early Venona period that identify Judy Coplon, Theodore Hall, Klaus Fuchs et al. These show the very close collaboration between AH and FBI. I also gave them some papers re Bill Weisband and said this is a sensitive but fundamentally important historical issue - a very tough call because of family considerations --- but the time has come? In their court.

3. As to Weisband, got some rather astonishing info today from Tom Patton, retired CIA. Patton said that at the end of WWII he was an Army officer in G-2 handling relations with Arlington Hall. At the suggestion of, he believes, Frank Rowlett, Patton decided to hire Weisband for a position as a Soviet Sigint analyst in G-2. John O'Gara, who was with the G-2 party in Arlington Hall, told him not to hire Weisband. Now for the really interesting part -- you'll recall that in my history I speculated that u/i covername ZVENO was possibly Weisband. One KGB message of 1943 re ZVENO was a perfect fit for Weisband. However an early 1945 KGB message re ZVENO seemed to say that ZVENO was somehow under Naval GRU control at that time. This did not make sense. Until now -- Patton told me that Weisband had mentioned to him that he had been the US interpretor for a Soviet naval liaison group in the Mediterrenean during WWII! I think that tends to clinch ZVENO = Weisband.

Non - Responsive

6. Next release of translations will be biggest yet, as we are combining two releases: San Francisco and Mexico KGB, plus NY and Washington GRU and Washington Naval GRU (900+ messages). Will write a monograph to accompany same.

Lou

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